United Nations A/C.5/55/SR.65

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
6 June 2001

Original: English

Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 65th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 22 May 2001, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Rosenthal ..... (Guatemala)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

Contents

Agenda item 167: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Agenda item 138: Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (*continued*)

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (*continued*)

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01-38124 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 167: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (A/55/935 and A/55/941)

1. **The Chairman** recalled that the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (A/55/935) had been introduced by the Controller at the Committee's 58th meeting along with a number of other reports on the financing of various United Nations peacekeeping operations.

2. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/55/941), said that, in paragraph 26 of its report, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should authorize the assessment of $90.8 million gross for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001, in addition to the amount already assessed in that period, and the appropriation and assessment of an initial amount of $200 million gross for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2001, pending submission of a full budget for the financing of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002. It further recommended that the unencumbered balance of $3.4 million gross for the period ending 30 June 2000 should be applied to the ensuing period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001. The Advisory Committee had addressed, inter alia, the issues of staffing and air operations. In that connection, it recommended that a review should be made of the utilization of air transport capacity and the results included in the report of the Secretary-General to be submitted in September 2001.

3. **Mr. Kadiri** (Morocco) said, with reference to the report of the Secretary-General (A/55/935), that the Moroccan Guard Unit was located not in Kinshasa but at the Logistics Base at Goma.

4. **The Chairman** said that the necessary correction would be made.

Agenda item 138: Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (*continued*)

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (*continued*) (A/C.5/55/L.77)

Draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.77

5. **Mr. Mirmohammad** (Islamic Republic of Iran), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.77 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that in the fourth line of paragraph 22 the words "the scheme set out in" should be replaced by "paragraph 20 of" and that the same change should be made in the fifth line of paragraph 24.

6. **Mr. Wittmann** (United States of America) said that his delegation objected to the language of the fourth preambular paragraph and of paragraphs 2, 3 and 15, which was political in nature and did not belong in a draft resolution on the financing of a United Nations peacekeeping operation.

7. **Mr. Assaf** (Lebanon) said that the paragraphs in question addressed financial, not political issues. The General Assembly resolutions referred to therein simply stated that Israel should cover the costs resulting from the aggression against the headquarters of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) at Qana.

8. **Mr. Lenefors** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that his delegation shared the concerns just expressed by the representative of the United States.

9. **Mr. Adam** (Israel) said that there was no precedent for deciding that one Member State shou'd bear sole financial responsibility for damage sustained by United Nations forces in the context of a peacekeeping operation. When the Organization deployed peacekeepers in conflict areas, it did so in full knowledge of the inherent dangers. Any damage sustained should therefore be absorbed by the general peacekeeping budget, in accordance with the principle of collective responsibility.

10. **Mr. Assaf** (Lebanon) said that there was also no precedent for a State attacking the headquarters of a United Nations peacekeeping force. In order to ensure that no State would dare to commit such an act in future, Israel should be made to cover the costs of the damage inflicted.

11. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation endorsed the statements made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by the representative of Lebanon. Israel must cover the costs resulting from its deliberate act of aggression against the headquarters of UNIFIL at Qana, in accordance with its obligations to the United Nations and the international community.

12. **Mr. Ahmed** (Iraq) said that his delegation fully supported the statements made by the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon.

13. **Mr. Adam** (Israel) said that he was not convinced that even the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic believed that Israel had deliberately targeted the headquarters of UNIFIL. The Qana incident had occurred because Hezbollah had deliberately used a United Nations camp as a base from which to launch rockets at Israel. No country could stand idly by as rockets fell on its towns and cities.

14. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that he agreed that any country attacked by another country must respond. In the Qana incident, however, it was Lebanon that had been the victim of the aggression. It was not a matter of believing that Israel had deliberately targeted the headquarters. That fact had been established beyond doubt, and it was on that basis that Israel had been asked to indemnify the United Nations for the damage sustained.

15. **Mr. Assaf** (Lebanon) said that it had been proved that no rockets had been launched from the area in Qana targeted by Israel.

16. **The Chairman** said that the Committee would take a decision on the draft resolution at a later date.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.

United Nations A/C.5/55/SR.66

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
6 June 2001

Original: English

Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 66th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 24 May 2001, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Kelapile (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Botswana)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

Contents

Agenda 134: Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (*continued*)

Agenda item 116: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

Agenda item 123: Human resources management (*continued*)

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01-38358 (E)

In the absence of Mr. Rosenthal (Guatemala), Mr. Kelapile (Botswana), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 134: Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (*continued*) (A/55/874 and A/55/925)

1. **The Chairman** drew attention to the Secretary-General's report containing the financial performance report of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) for the period from 1 December 1999 to 30 June 2000 (A/55/925). He recalled that the Controller had introduced the subject in his statement at the Committee's 58th meeting and that UNTAET was one of four peacekeeping operations for which budgets had not yet been submitted.

2. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) recalled that, in his statement at the Committee's 58th meeting, he had indicated that the Advisory Committee's report on the Secretary-General's report on UNTAET would be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session. He had also indicated, however, that the Assembly should take action at the current session with respect to the unencumbered balance of $57,989,900 for the period ending 30 June 2000. That figure was contained in annex I of the Advisory Committee's report (A/55/874). However, in the Secretary-General's report, the amount appeared as $57,990,000 gross. Since the latter figure represented the audited amount, it should be used for the purpose of determining the amounts to be credited to Member States.

3. With respect to the interim financing of UNTAET for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2001, the Advisory Committee had indicated, in paragraph 10 (d) of its report, that $282 million gross should be appropriated and assessed to cover the Mission's needs for that six-month period. With respect to the Secretary-General's request concerning the application of special arrangements with regard to article IV of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations (A/55/925, para. 16), the Advisory Committee would report on the issue in connection with the report which it would submit at the fifty-sixth session on cost estimates for UNTAET for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002.

Agenda item 116: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

Agenda item 123: Human resources management (*continued*)

Proposed regulations governing the status, basic rights and duties of officials other than Secretariat officials and experts on mission (*continued*) (A/55/928)

4. **The Chairman** recalled that the Secretary-General's report on proposed regulations governing the status, basic rights and duties of officials other than Secretariat officials and experts on mission, in particular those who were elected by the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs (A/55/928), had been introduced at the Committee's 64th meeting.

5. **Mr. Nesser** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that he shared the position expressed at the Committee's 64th meeting by the delegations of Canada and the United States of America that the issue should be postponed until the comments of the group of special rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights had been received.

6. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to request its secretariat to prepare a draft decision whereby the Committee would recommend that the General Assembly should defer its consideration of the report on the proposed regulations for senior officials (A/55/928) to its fifty-sixth session.

7. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, although he did not object to that suggestion, he would like to make a statement on the issue before it was deferred.

8. **The Chairman** said that, at the Committee's next meeting, the Syrian delegation could make a statement on the matter, after which the Committee would adopt the relevant draft decision.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.